



ST 98020 (5500*59)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

FREDERIC CARENCOTTE, ET AL

: INT'L APPLN. NO. PCT/FR99/01636

SERIAL NO: 09/743,288

: INT'L FILING DATE: 07/07/99

FILED: JANUARY 8, 2001

: ART UNIT: 1623

FOR: METHOD FOR SEPARATING
HYDROXYMETHYLTHIOBUTYRIC
ACID

: EXAMINER: OH, TAYLOR V.

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AMENDMENT

Sir:

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

In response to the Office Action dated February 26, 2002, please amend the above-identified
patent application as follows.

In the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 16 and 17 of the specification with the following
rewritten paragraph. A marked-up version of the amended paragraph is provided in Appendix A.

B ¹ The lower phase, into which the salts are partially displaced, represented 49.3 grams and
had a load of HMTBA of 2% W/W. Thus, under these displacement conditions, 99.5% of the
participating HMTBA could be extracted with MEK in one stage with a participating organic
solvent/solution to be treated ratio of 36.2% W/W. ¹